

Comprehension, Pages 1-25

1. In "The Assignment", where is Peak and what is he doing? _____

2. In "The Hook", where is Peak and what is he doing? _____

3. What did Peak do with the spray paint? _____

4. What injuries did Peak sustain? _____

5. Describe Green Street School? _____

6. What assignment did Vincent give Peak? _____

7. Describe Peak's family. _____

8. What terrible event occurred as a result of Peak climbing the skyscraper? _____

9. Why is Peak's dad famous? _____

10. What are the three parts of Peak's punishment? _____

BONUS: Would you want to attend Green Street School? Why/why not?

Comprehension, Pages 26-44

1. What special day do Peak and the twins have in common?

2. Why didn't Peak want to change his last name?

3. To which country was Peak flying?

4. What happened to Peak's mother when he was three months old?

5. How did Rolf and Peak's mother get together?

6. Why did Peak start climbing skyscrapers?

7. What was the change in travel plans that surprised Peak?

8. What were the two "hurdles" Peak had to overcome?

9. Why couldn't Peak climb up Everest on the Nepalese side?

10. What record could Peak make? _____

BONUS: What are the pros and cons of Peak climbing Mount Everest? Do you think Peak should climb Mount Everest? Why/why not?

Comprehension, Pages 45-66

In complete sentences, explain the significance of the following terms to the plot.

1. Dozen letters _____

2. Two months _____

3. HAPE _____

4. Two week window _____

5. Zopa _____

6. Sun-jo _____

7. K2 _____

8. Sagarmatha _____

9. Friendship Bridge _____

10. People's Republic of China _____

BONUS: What are Zopa's reasons for taking Peak up the mountain?

Comprehension, Pages 67-92

1. Why was George so upset, and what did he threaten to do? _____

2. Who is Captain Shek? _____

3. What is Peak Experience, and why did Josh start it? _____

4. Explain Base Camp using at least three descriptors. _____

5. Why does Josh want Peak to be the youngest to summit Everest? _____

6. What are the three main reasons they have to keep the climb quiet? _____

7. What was the deal Josh made with Holly Angelo? _____

8. What is "self-arrest"? _____

9. What is a puja ceremony? _____

10. Why does Josh need to take people to ABC now? _____

BONUS: What did Peak mean when he said, "I would have liked it better if he had come to New York to save me because I was in trouble, not because he was in trouble."? What kind of father is Josh? Does Josh love Peak?

Complete the cause/effect chart below.

Cause (Why?)	Effect (What happened?)
William Blade offered to pay Holly’s massage therapist twice as much to work for him.	
	Josh and the climbers had to stay an extra day and night at the ABC camp.
	Francis was put in a Gamow (gam-off) Bag at ABC camp.
Josh said he would have to wait a few days to take Peak and Holly up to ABC camp because he was exhausted.	
	Peak “went off” on JR telling him that without the yaks and the porters, no climber would be able to summit Everest.
“Red blood cells are multiplying by the millions to protect our body from the thin air. These new red cells stick around during the rest periods...”	
	They asked Sun-jo to film an interview. He did a beautiful job describing his feelings about his father and climbing Mount Everest.
	Holly’s voice sounded normal when they reached ABC, and she beat Peak back to Base Camp by an half hour.
	Climbers had to be careful about what they said because everyone, including Captain Shek, could hear them.
	Peak realized Josh had received all of the letters he had mailed over the years. He also realized how much he cared about Rolf.

BONUS: What does it mean when Peak says, “You can never tell who the mountain will allow and who it will not.”? Which characters do you think will summit? Why?

Comprehension, Pages 127-150

1. Who attended the secret meeting? _____

2. What happened to William Blake? _____

3. How much time do they have to get Peak to the summit? _____

4. What is the surprising connection between Sun-jo and Zopa? _____

5. Where was Sun-jo born, and why was that a problem? _____

6. Why was Josh's business partner, Thaddeus, so angry about the change in plans? _____

7. Why does Sun-jo have to sleep at the porter camp? _____

8. Why does Zopa want Sun-jo to summit Everest? _____

9. Why did JR tell Peak they would have to figure out the story for the documentary? _____

10. Summarize the story of Gulu and his yak. _____

BONUS: Why is Peak feeling so confused and angry in this section?

Comprehension, Pages 151-172

1. What three pieces of information did Captain Shek want to know from Peak? _____

2. What two things did Holly learn about herself? _____

3. How did Sun-jo get to the Intermediate Camp? _____

4. Why did Josh say that climbers were on their own once they reached Camp Five? _____

5. Explain Col using at least three descriptors. _____

6. In what order did the climbers reach the top of Col? _____

7. What did Zopa say to Peak that reenergized him? _____

8. Why did Yogi and Yash go on to Camp Five without the rest of Team C?

9. What decision did Holly make? _____

10. What did Captain Shek do when he stopped at ABC Camp? _____

BONUS: Why did Holly change so much during her time on Mount Everest?

In complete sentences, explain the significance of the following terms or quotes.

1. Silent vigil

2. Peak's letter to his mother

3. "People die up there, Peak. You might die up there."

4. Rattlesnake

5. "Live to climb another day."

6. Sun-jo's father

7. Mess tent

8. Ice wall

9. "If he goes we leave. That's the deal."

10. Josh's note

BONUS: Do the climbers have a right to forbid Peak from climbing with them? Why/why not?

Comprehension, Pages 197-221

1. Why don't more climbers use the shortcut? _____

2. What was the first obstacle they had to face at the shortcut? _____

3. What two things did they learn from Josh's small talk on the radio the first time? _____

4. What happened to Sun-jo on the ice wall? _____

5. Why did that happen? _____

6. What two things did Josh reveal the second time he was on the radio? _____

7. What is the plan for the climbers once they reached the summit and why? _____

8. Why did Zopa stay at Camp Four? _____

9. What did Peak see on the way to Camp Five? _____

10. What time did they have to reach the summit and why? _____

BONUS: How did what they saw affect Peak?

Comprehension, Pages 222-246

Write a summary of each chapter in exactly five sentences. When you are finished, write a new chapter title. Explain why you selected that title.

“Top of the World” Summary

New chapter title: _____

Explanation: _____

“Down the Mountainside” Summary

New chapter title: _____

Explanation: _____

“Denouement” Summary

New chapter title: _____

Explanation: _____

BONUS: Why did Peak change his mind at the summit of Everest? Why didn't Peak tell Josh what really happened? Why did Rolf give Peak a doubtful look on page 244?